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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/535,842	03/28/2000	David W. Miller	99-082-TAP	5069

7590 12/15/2003
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EXAMINER

RAO, SHEELA S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2125

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/535,842

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Sheela Rao

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of this application is withdrawn for the reasons stated below.
2. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.
3. The rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 USC§ 103(a) over USPN 5,646,917 to Miyoshi, et al. in view of USPN 5,589,859 to Schantz is **withdrawn**. Upon further consideration and a new search, prior art was found that is more closely directed to the invention of the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi, et al. (US Patent No. 5,646,917) in view of Heidelberg, et al. (US Patent No. 5,486,727).

Miyoshi, et al. discloses a device for stocking a plurality of CDs where in a horizontal carrier or robotic element is used to be moved along guide rails of the frame of the stocking device or library. The library system of the patented invention comprises a plurality of openings for storing discs, also a guide rail is provided so that the carrier can slide to carry the discs to their respective slots. See figure 1. Miyoshi also teaches the use of a plurality of coils positioned equidistantly within the proximity of the rails. With regard to claims 1-4, see column 3: lines 29-52.

The prior art further teaches the use of magnetic forces to move the carrier or robotic element between the guide rails, as per the limitations of instant claims 10-15. See column 3: line 64 to column 4: line 34.

As per the last paragraph of instant claim 1 and the limitations set forth by instant claims 5-9 and 16-21, Miyoshi, et al. does not teach the use of a secondary coil to inductively couple for powering the drive mechanism. The drive mechanism of the horizontal carrier or robot as taught by Miyoshi comprises a magnet which when combined with the primary coils, within the guide rails, powers the movement of the unit. The reference of prior art to Heidelberg, et al. teaches the use of multiple coils which produces and allows for the flow of a magnetic field. Furthermore, the reference teaches that coils would be a probable and possible replacement for magnets since magnets tend to slow down movement and acceleration since they have a higher mass ^{compared to} as that of coils. Over time, magnets tend to produce relatively weaker fields thereby losing their productive potential. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated multiple coils for powering the drive mechanism of the carrier stocker system of Miyoshi, et al. so as to maintain and improve efficiency, as well as to reduce weight and expenses. See Heidelberg, et al., column 2: lines 33-48.

For the reasons stated above, the limitations of the claimed invention are taught by the prior arts of record; thereby, rendering the instant claims unpatentable.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Langley USPN 4,286,180

Sawyer USPN 4,335,338

Palmer USPN 4,635,328

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela Rao whose telephone number is (703) 305-9766. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 2125

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 for Official Communications

hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Receptionist - Sixth Floor
Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Sheela S. Rao
December 9, 2003



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100